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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
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RHMHMHB/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9358  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2801  
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5333  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1450  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1425  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2885  
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OITP KMDR KPAO JA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA TENSIONS AND  
EU EXPANSION - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: All Thursday morning papers led with the resignation of Regulatory Reform Minister Sato over irregular accounting practices undertaken by his political organization throughout the 1990s.

¶1. "Situation in Somalia Smacks of Proxy War" The liberal Asahi's New York correspondent wrote (12/28): "On the worsening situation in Somalia, there appear to be differing views within the UN Security Council over the council's role in dealing with a 'failed state,' with Arab and Islamic countries calling for a pullout of 'foreign troops,' while Western powers are opposed in view of the war on terrorism. Countering the Ethiopian troops backing the provisional Somali government, Chechen and Pakistani guerrillas are supporting the rebel Union of Islamic Courts (UIC). As the UIC is said to have accepted troops from Eritrea, the situation in Somalia smacks of a larger proxy war."

¶2. "EU Expansion over for the Time Being" The top-circulation, moderate-conservative Yomiuri's Brussels correspondent stated (12/28): "With the upcoming entry of Bulgaria and Romania on January 1, the EU will have 27 members and a combined population of about 500 million people, extending all the way to the Black Sea. EU expansion, which has been an engine for European unity and stability, is likely to come to a halt for the time being, as discussions on Turkey's membership have stalled.... With Bulgaria and Romania becoming the poorest members of the organization, there is no doubt that economic disparities within the EU will further widen. There is also concern that the larger roster of members could make managing the organization more difficult, as the EU has adopted the principle of

unanimous consensus in making key decisions."

DONOVAN